Hans Christian Andersen's

Thumbelina™

Contains the Song "Let Me Be Your Wings"

A Don Bluth Film

SOMETIMES

the biggest stories come in the
smallest packages. Just like the story of Thumbelina,
the little girl "no bigger than a thumb" who finds true love.
Listen and read along to the big adventure of one very tiny girl
who follows her heart, because a heart full of love is
larger than any problem.

When you hear the buzzing of Prince Cornelius' trusty bumblebee, Buzzby, you will know it's time to turn the page.

NARRATED BY:

Neil Ross • S. Scott Bullock • Sara Toga Ballantine • Sylvia Walden

Picture Story Books used by prior arrangement with Grossett & Dunlap.

PRODUCTION CREDITS:
Executive Producer: Maja Thomas • Producer: Leslie Chew
Production Manager: Alyson Careaga • Production Assistant: Melissa Both • Recorded at: Tele-Talent Studios

MUSIC CREDITS
Songs: "Thumbelina's Theme" • "Follow Your Heart" • "Let Me Be Your Wings"
Songs by Barry Manilow, Jack Feldman and Bruce Sussman
Arranged & Produced by Barry Manilow • Original Underscore by William Ross & Barry Manilow

Once there was a lonely woman who, more than anything in the world, longed to have a child. One day the woman planted a magic seed and soon a beautiful flower grew. When the flower opened, there sat Thumbelina — a tiny girl no bigger than her mother's thumb.

Thumbelina was so tiny she could fit in the pocket of her mother's apron and sit light as a butterfly on her mother's shoulder. But Thumbelina did not like being small. She was too small to feed the chickens. She was too small to milk the cow. She thought she was too small to do anything.

Then one warm summer evening, Thumbelina's mother opened a book and showed her a picture of tiny people with wings. "These are fairies," she said.

"Oh! They are little. Just like me!" said Thumbelina.

Later that night, Thumbelina stood in front of the book and pretended to dance with the fairy prince in the picture.

"May I cut in?" said a voice.

Thumbelina was so surprised. There, right in front of her, was someone just her size! Little did she know he was a real, live fairy prince!

"My name is Cornelius," said the visitor, bowing low. And soon he and Thumbelina were singing and laughing and falling in love.

When at last he admitted that he was really Prince Cornelius, Thumbelina could not believe her ears! Then the prince gave her a ring from his finger to show his love.

"I must go now," said Cornelius. "But I'll be back for you tomorrow," he promised her. "And we'll live happily ever after." Then, waving good-bye, he rode off on his trusty bumblebee Buzzby.

Soon Thumbelina was fast asleep in her walnut shell bed, dreaming of Prince Cornelius. But as she slept, someone crept into her room. Ma Toad had heard Thumbelina sing and she had big plans for the tiny girl — plans to make her a star in the Toad Family Singing Group. Quietly, so Thumbelina wouldn't wake up, Ma Toad carried her off to the marshes where her three sons were waiting.

The next morning when Thumbelina woke, she found a whole family of toads staring at her.

"I bring you here to sing with us," explained Ma Toad. "You will be BIG star!"

At first Thumbelina was excited. They practiced a song, and Thumbelina believed it was true — she really would be famous!

But then Ma Toad said, "Call me Mama. You are going to marry my son, Grundel!"

"No, no, NO!" exclaimed Thumbelina. "I don't love Grundel — I love Prince Cornelius!" But the toads wouldn't listen. Instead, they placed her on a lily pad so she couldn't escape. Then they left her alone while they made plans for the wedding.

"Help!" shouted Thumbelina. "Help! I must get off this lily pad and find the prince!"

Luckily, a friendly swallow named Jacquimo was flying nearby. He darted under the water and snipped the stem of the lily pad with his beak. Thumbelina was free!

Thumbelina began to paddle toward shore. But the lily pad wasn't moving toward shore. It was going downstream — fast! Thumbelina was heading straight for a waterfall!

Once again, Jacquimo took hold of the stem. He pulled and tugged and tugged and pulled as hard as he could. But the current was too strong.

"I am slipping!" shouted Jacquimo.

"Help!" cried Thumbelina.

A fish heard the cries, and swam over. With one flick of his tail, he flipped the lily pad close to shore. There, a group of tiny insects called the Jitterbugs pulled Thumbelina out of the water.

Jacquimo flew to the riverbank right behind them. "Are you all right, little one?" he asked Thumbelina.

"Yes," said Thumbelina, giving Jacquimo a hug. "Thank you all so much. But I am afraid I will never see my home again or find Prince Cornelius, my one true love . . . It is impossible."

"Nothing is impossible if you follow your heart," said Jacquimo. "Your heart will lead you home. Meanwhile, I will go to the Vale of Fairies, find the prince, and bring him to you!"

So Thumbelina set off down a forest path to try to find her way. As she walked, she hummed a little song to keep up her spirits.

Suddenly, a beetle dropped in front of her. "Hi ya, toots!" he said. "Berkeley Beetle's the name. You are beautiful. You are gorgeous. And I love the sound of your voice."

"I'll sing for you," offered Thumbelina, "if you'll fly me to the treetops. Maybe then I can see my home."

Berkeley Beetle agreed, and carried Thumbelina up, up, up to the top of the Beetletree. But Thumbelina didn't have time to look for her house. The grand Beetle Ball was just getting started and Berkeley Beetle wanted everyone to see pretty Thumbelina on his arm. He dressed her up like a fancy bug, then brought her out to sing.

"Okay, toots," he told her. "Wing it!"

All the beetles at the ball went "ooh" and "ah" when they heard Thumbelina sing. They danced and jumped to the music. Thumbelina tried to jump,too. But she fell to the floor with a thud, tearing her insect costume apart.

Everyone was quiet. Then they started to shout. "Would you look at that? The girl has no wings! She's ugly!"

"Sorry toots," said Berkeley Beetle. "I guess you're just too ugly for me." And he flew Thumbelina back down to the ground.

Once again, Thumbelina was all alone in the forest. But now it was getting colder — much colder. A fierce wind began to blow. Shivering, the tiny girl made her way through the woods.

"It *is* impossible," Thumbelina said, hugging herself to keep warm. "I followed my heart just like Jacquimo said, but I still couldn't find my way."

Then snow began to fall, and sadly Thumbelina searched for shelter and a place to sleep.

While Thumbelina made her way through the woods, Prince Cornelius searched for her near the marsh. "Thumbelina," he called. "Thumbelina!"

Suddenly a fierce wind blew — whoosh! Autumn had arrived. And it was getting colder.

WHISH! WHOOSH! The winds grew even stronger. Buzzby could barely fly!

Again the prince called Thumbelina's name. But it was no use. His words were lost in the wind.

At last the prince spied a hollow log and decided to take shelter from the storm. Carefully, he guided Buzzby inside where he found the Jitterbugs — the very ones who had helped Thumbelina!

"She was trying to find her way home when the beetle took her away," they told the prince. "Berkeley Beetle has Thumbelina now!"

"I've got to find her!" said Cornelius. And bracing himself against the fierce wind, he rode back into the storm.

Meanwhile it was growing colder — autumn turned into winter. The prince shivered as snowflakes began to fall. They came down faster and faster — it was a blizzard!

ZING! A sharp piece of ice struck Buzzby. The bumblebee spun around in a circle, then fell to the ground. Cornelius was thrown from the saddle and dropped — hard! — onto a frozen pond.

CRACK! The ice splintered and Prince Cornelius plunged into the freezing cold water. Seconds later the prince bobbed to the surface — frozen solid in a block of ice! And that's exactly how Berkeley Beetle found him when he walked by a little later.

Thumbelina slept and slept, and when she woke up, she discovered she was in the cozy kitchen of Miss Fieldmouse. The mouse had found Thumbelina half frozen and had brought her back to her underground house.

"Thank you," said Thumbelina. "But I really must get home. The prince might be waiting."

"It's much too cold to travel," Miss Fieldmouse argued. "And besides, you'll never see the prince again. I've heard he had an accident. He is frozen in the ice!"

"No,no,no!" cried Thumbelina. But Miss Fieldmouse did not have time for tears. "We have to take these corn cakes to Mister Mole," she said. "I know he will want to meet you."

Mister Mole *was* pleased to meet Thumbelina — so pleased that he asked her to marry him! Poor Thumbelina was sad and confused. "But what else can I do?" she wondered. She thought she'd never see Cornelius again. And so she agreed to the marriage.

But the prince was not alone for long. The Jitterbugs had seen everything from their hiding place. They scurried over and quickly built a small fire under the block of ice. Bit by bit the ice melted.

Suddenly the prince moved a finger.

"Look! He's waking up!" they said. "We must tell him about Thumbelina and the mole!"

On the day of the wedding, guests filled the underground Wedding Hall to watch Thumbelina walk down the aisle. Thumbelina took one step, then another, drawing closer and closer to Mister Mole. But before she reached him, Thumbelina glanced at the ring Prince Cornelius had given her. All at once she knew what she must do.

Thumbelina shook her head. "I cannot marry Mister Mole," she announced. "I don't love him!"

"Thumbelina!" gasped Miss Fieldmouse.

But Thumbelina was already on her way out of the Wedding Hall.

"After her!" shouted Mister Mole.

Thumbelina fled through the dark, gloomy tunnels, just one step ahead of Mister Mole. Suddenly Berkeley Beetle dropped in front of her, but Thumbelina kept running. At last, she was following her heart. She knew she would find her way.

And then, through the cobwebs that filled the tunnel, Thumbelina saw a ray of sunlight. There was a hole in the ceiling. She could escape!

Up,up, and out of the hole Thumbelina climbed, leaving Mister Mole far behind.

"Oh, the sun!" she cried, stepping into bright warm sunshine. "It is spring!"

Then she saw Jacquimo was there too, waiting for her. "Come with me," he said to Thumbelina. "I have found the Vale of Fairies!"

And before she could say a word, Jacquimo lifted the tiny girl onto his back, and away they flew.

Thumbelina and Jacquimo flew over forests and mountains, until at last, the swallow set Thumbelina down in a patch of weeds.

"Sing, Thumbelina. Sing!" said Jacquimo. "And you'll see that nothing is impossible."

And so Thumbelina began to sing — just like she sang with Prince Cornelius.

Suddenly another voice joined in. It was the prince!

"Will you marry me?" he asked.
"Yes" said Thumbelina. And all at once, the Vale of Fairies became a garden paradise, filled with beautiful flowers and laughing, dancing fairies. Thumbelina's mother was there, too.

And right before their eyes, teeny-tiny Thumbelina grew her very own fairy wings!

Then the fairy queen, the fairy king, and the entire fairy court appeared. It was time for a real fairy wedding!

Trumpets sounded and hundreds of fairies lined the garden path to blow kisses to the new fairy princess. The prince and his true love were together at last!

A royal fairy wedding was held that very day. And from then on, Thumbelina and Prince Cornelius lived happily ever after together in the Vale of Fairies.

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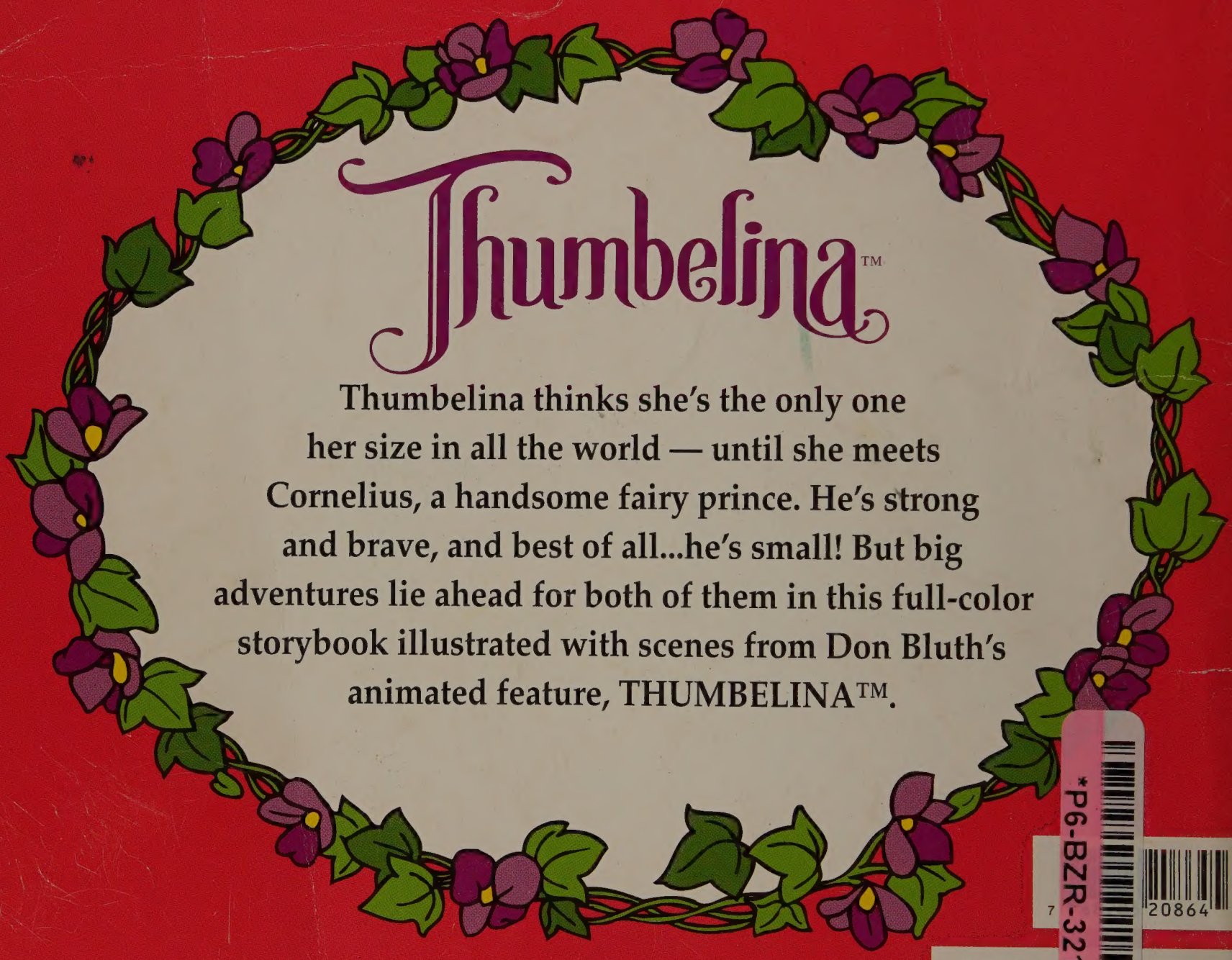

Thumbelina thinks she's the only one her size in all the world — until she meets Cornelius, a handsome fairy prince. He's strong and brave, and best of all...he's small! But big adventures lie ahead for both of them in this full-color storybook illustrated with scenes from Don Bluth's animated feature, THUMBELINA™.

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